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Please replace the language appearing on page 4, line 32 through page 5, line 4 with the following:

Figs. 1a and 1b are respectively transverse sectional views of ~~the pieces of a first,~~ conventional two-piece heat-shrink ~~jointing as described above~~tube;

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of a ~~second~~ conventional~~,~~ one-piece heat-shrink ~~jointing as also described above~~tube; and

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view of a heat-shrink ~~jointing~~ tube in accordance with the present invention.

Please add on page 5, line 5, the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

through page 6, line 2 SS 3/05/09

Please replace the language appearing on page 5, lines ~~6-31~~ with the following:

A heat-shrink ~~jointing~~ tube as shown in Fig. 3 comprises a sleeve 10 in the form of a one-piece, tubular extrusion which is made up of ~~three~~ substantially co-axial radial layers~~, 11, 12 and 13~~ consisting of an inner layer 11, an outer layer 13, and a mid-layer 12. The ~~innermost~~ inner layer 11 comprises an electrically insulating layer comprised of an elastomeric material. The ~~outermost~~ outer layer 13 is thin and made of a conducting material. Between the inner and outer layers 11, ~~and~~ 13 is ~~a~~ the rigid, thermoplastic mid-layer 12. The mid-layer 12 is recovered by the application of heat thereto and therefore prior to installation of the ~~jointing~~ sleeve 10 acts as a ~~hold-out~~ support to retain the elastomeric inner layer 11 in a radially expanded state. In addition, the mid-layer 12 is ~~preferably~~ comprised of an electrically insulating material which provides the